

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An optical disc reproducing apparatus comprising: [ , ]
  - a reproducing means which reproduces, from an optical disc, an audio signal and time information relating to a reproducing time for ~~the said~~ audio signal, which are recorded on ~~the said~~ optical disc; [ , ]
    - a beat detecting means which detects ~~from said audio signal reproduced by said reproducing means~~, beats contained in a musical rhythm represented by said audio signal, ~~from said audio signal reproduced by said reproducing means~~; [ , ]
    - a first storing means which stores said audio signal reproduced by said reproducing means; [ , ]
    - a second storing means which stores the time information reproduced by said reproducing means, with respect to each audio signal respectively corresponding to ~~the said~~ beats being continuous, which are detected by said beat detecting means; [ , ]
    - a first operation means which receives a beat searching operation from a user; [ , ] and
      - a control means which, when said first operation means receives said beat searching operation from said user, searches for the time information of said beats being continuous stored in said second storing means, in order of time represented by the time information, or in reverse order thereof, when said first operation means receives said beat searching operation, and reads ~~the said~~ audio signal stored in said first storing means based on the time information thus searched.

2. (Currently amended) The optical disc reproducing apparatus, according to claim 1, further comprising: [L]]

a second operation means which receives a mode designation for searching a beat by said control means, wherein,

    said beat detecting means classifies said beats according to a signal level of ~~the~~ said audio signal corresponding to each of ~~the~~ said beats, and

    if said second operation means receives a designation of downbeat search mode as said mode designation, upon receipt of said searching operation by said first operation means, said control means searches for the time information, in order of time represented by the time information, or in reverse order thereof, as to ~~the~~ said beats having been classified as the downbeat by ~~the~~ said beat detecting means, out of the time information stored in said second storing means.

3. (New) The optical disk recording apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a switching means which switches said operation mode of said first operation means to one of one-frame search mode or one-beat search mode.

4. (New) An optical disc reproducing apparatus comprising:

    a reproducing means which reproduces, from an optical disc, an audio signal and time information relating to a reproducing time for said audio signal, which are recorded on said optical disc;

a beat detecting means which detects beats contained in a musical rhythm represented by said audio signal from said audio signal reproduced by said reproducing means;

a first storing means which stores said audio signal reproduced by said reproducing means;

a second storing means which stores said time information reproduced by said reproducing means, with respect to each audio signal respectively corresponding to said beats being continuous, which are detected by said beat detecting means;

a first operation means which receives a beat searching operation from a user; and

a control means which, when said first operation means receives said beat searching operation from said user, reads the audio signal corresponding to said time information of beats stored in said second storing means, said audio signal being stored in said first storing means.

5. (New) The optical disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a second operation means which receives a mode designation for searching a beat by said control means, wherein:

said beat detecting means classifies said beats according to a signal level of said audio signal corresponding to each of said beats, and

if said second operation means receives a designation of downbeat search mode as said mode designation, upon receipt of said searching operation by said first operation

means, said control means searches for said time information, in order of time represented by said time information, or in reverse order thereof, as to the beats having been classified as the downbeat by said beat detecting means, out the said time information stored in said second storing means.

6. (New) The optical disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a switching means which switches the operation mode of said first operation means to one of one-frame search mode and one-beat search mode.